

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 08353 01 OF 02 140205Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 NSC-05 CIAE-00
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R 131849Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8284
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 08353

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR PGOV WB GW UR
SUBJECT: FRG-SOVIET CONSULTATIONS ON BERLIN ISSUES

REFS: (A) LONDON 7645; (B) BONN 8087; (C) BONN 7361

BEGIN SUMMARY. WE HAVE ENDEAVORED TO CLARIFY VAN WELL'S
REMARKS AT THE LONDON QUADRIpartite MEETING CONCERNING
FRG-SOVIET DISCUSSIONS ON TREATMENT OF BERLIN ISSUES IN
BILATERAL RELATIONS. SO FAR WE SEE NO EVIDENCE
THAT THE GERMANS MIGHT HAVE EMBARKED
ON ANOTHER EFFORT TO OBTAIN A PRIVATE UNDERSTANDING
WITH THE SOVIETS ON HOW THE QA IS TO BE INTERPRETED.
END SUMMARY.

1. AS REQUESTED IN REF A (PARA 5), WE HAVE ATTEMPTED
CIRCUMSPECTLY TO OBTAIN CLARIFICATION OF FRG
POLITICAL DIRECTOR VAN WELL'S REMARKS AT THE MAY 7
QUADRIpartite LUNCHEON CONCERNING FRG-SOVIET DISCUSSIONS
WHICH MIGHT AMOUNT TO INTERPRETATIONS OF THE QA.
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PAGE 02 BONN 08353 01 OF 02 140205Z

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH MEYER-LANDRUT OF THE FOREIGN
OFFICE AT A SOCIAL OCCASION ON MAY 11, AN EMBOFF
RECALLED THAT MEYER-LANDRUT HAD PREVIOUSLY TOLD THE
POLITICAL COUNSELOR (REF C) THAT THE DISCUSSIONS OF THE
SCIENTIFIC-TECHNOLOGICAL AGREEMENT DURING BONDARENKO'S

VISIT TO BONN RESULTED IN SO MUCH BRACKETED LANGUAGE THAT THERE SEEMED LITTLE PROSPECT FOR RESOLVING THE DIFFERENCES SOON. EMBOFF CONTINUED THAT THE NATURE OF THE QUADRIpartite LUNCHEON HAD MADE IT DIFFICULT TO GET AN ACCURATE REPORT OF VAN WELL'S BRIEFING ON THE SUBJECT, AND THAT WE WERE THUS CONSIDERING ASKING THE FRG BONN GROUP REP TO REPEAT THE BRIEFING IN THE BONN GROUP. WE WERE NOT CERTAIN, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT WE FULLY UNDERSTOOD VAN WELL'S REFERENCE TO BONDARENKO'S STATEMENT ON THE POSSIBILITIES FOR REMOVING ALL THE BRACKETS QUICKLY.

3. MEYER-LANDRUT SEEMED PUZZLED BUT RESPONDED THAT HE DOUBTED VERY MUCH THAT AN EASY RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS REPRESENTED BY THE BRACKETED LANGUAGE IN THE DRAFT AGREEMENT WOULD BE POSSIBLE. FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER WAS DETERMINED NOT TO COMPROMISE ON THE BERLIN ISSUE, MEYER-LANDRUT SAID, AND HE WAS UNAWARE OF ANY DISPOSITION ON THE PART OF THE SOVIETS TO COMPROMISE. HE THUS DOUBTED THAT VAN WELL HAD INTENDED TO LEAVE THE OTHER POLITICAL DIRECTORS WITH AN OPTIMISTIC APPRAISAL OF THE SITUATION.

4. THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR ALSO RAISED THE MATTER DIRECTLY WITH VAN WELL DURING A COURTESY CALL BY LONDON POLITICAL COUNSELOR WOESSNER ON MAY 12, AGAIN NOTING THAT WE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE LUNCHEON ARRANGEMENTS HAD CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BONN 08353 01 OF 02 140205Z

MADE PRECISE NOTETAKING DIFFICULT. VAN WELL OFFERED TWO CORRECTIONS TO WHAT HE HAD SAID IN LONDON AS REPORTED IN PARA 4, REF (A). THE STATEMENT BY BONDARENKO

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PAGE 01 BONN 08353 02 OF 02 140208Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 08353

TO WHICH VAN WELL REFERRED IN LONDON WAS MADE NOT DURING BONDARENKO'S VISIT TO BONN BUT SUBSEQUENTLY, WHEN BONDARENKO GOT IN TOUCH WITH VAN WELL IN AN UNSPECIFIED MANNER. IN THAT SUBSEQUENT COMMUNICATION, BONDARENKO HAD REFERRED NOT TO THE BREZHNEV VISIT TO BONN BUT TO GENSCHER'S VISIT TO MOSCOW IN JUNE. WHAT BONDARENKO SAID WAS THAT ONE SHOULD (NOT COULD) GET RID OF THE BRACKETS IN THE DRAFT SCIENTIFIC-TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BEFORE GENSCHER ARRIVES IN MOSCOW. VAN WELL SAID HE HAD TOLD BONDARENKO THAT HE WOULD NOT REMOVE ALL THE BRACKETS, ESPECIALLY ONE ON A KEY POINT, SINCE HE THOUGHT GENSCHER WOULD WANT TO BE FULLY FREE TO DISCUSS THOSE POINTS IN MOSCOW, GIVEN GENSCHER'S STRONG FEELINGS ON THE SUBJECT.

5. THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR ASKED WHETHER VAN WELL'S REFERENCES TO INTERPRETATION OF QA PROVISIONS CONCERNING THE PRESENCE OF BERLINERS ON FRG DELEGATIONS
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PAGE 02 BONN 08353 02 OF 02 140208Z

HAD BEEN RELATED SPECIFICALLY TO THE SCIENTIFIC-TECHNOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL AGREEMENTS WITH THE USSR

OR WAS DISCUSSED IN A BROADER FRAMEWORK. VAN WELL SAID THE DISCUSSION WAS NOT RESTRICTED TO THOSE TWO AGREEMENTS, BUT THAT IT ALSO WAS NOT A GENERAL TREATMENT OF THE ENTIRE PROBLEM. RATHER, THE DISCUSSION ALSO INCLUDED HANDLING OF BERLIN IN PENDING BILATERAL AGREEMENTS ON CUSTOMS AND CONSULAR MATTERS. THE DIFFICULTY IN THE LATTER FIELD WAS THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE INTERPRETED THE QA PROVISION THAT THE FRG

MAY PROVIDE CONSULAR SERVICES FOR PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF THE WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN TO MEAN THAT THIS RELATES ONLY TO WEST BERLINERS WHO ARE IN THE SOVIET UNION. THE GERMANS ARE SEEKING TO GET AGREEMENT THAT THE FRG MAY ALSO PERFORM CONSULAR SERVICES FOR WEST BERLINERS OUTSIDE THE USSR. (COMMENT: THIS IS ALSO AN ISSUE BETWEEN THE FRG AND THE GDR. IT APPARENTLY ARISES MOST OFTEN IN CONNECTION WITH REQUESTS ON BEHALF OF WEST BERLINERS FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING PROPERTY OR OTHER LEGAL MATTERS AND MAY ALSO ON OCCASION RELATE TO EFFORTS BY THE FRG EMBASSY TO EXPEDITE VISAS FOR WEST BERLINERS.)

6. COMMENT. WE ARE NOT CERTAIN HOW MUCH LIGHT THESE TWO CONVERSATIONS SHED ON VAN WELL'S LONDON PRESENTATION. WE ARE VERY MUCH AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH RESULTED FROM FRG EFFORTS TO REACH A PRIVATE UNDERSTANDING WITH THE SOVIETS IN 1973 ON INTERPRETATION OF THE QA PROVISION ON INVITATIONS TO SUCH INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AS SPORTS MEETINGS. SO FAR WE ARE NOT READY TO CONCLUDE THAT ANOTHER SUCH INTERPRETATION EFFORT IS UNDERWAY.
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PAGE 03 BONN 08353 02 OF 02 140208Z

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